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Sporkin may testify today on his fitness for judgeship

THE WASHINGTON TIMES

CIA General Counsel Stanley Sporkin is expected to testify today at a closed hearing of the Senate Judiciary Committee examining allegations that he acted improperly during a CIA investigation of national security leaks, according to congressional sources.

Mr. Sporkin is being questioned by the committee in connection with his nomination to a federal judgeship for the District of Columbia.

Mr. Sporkin is expected to testify along with Justice Department and FBI officials about an investigation several years ago relating to the unauthorized disclosure of top secret information about the Iran-Iraq war, U.S. Libyan oil purchases and Iraqi political developments. The information had been collected by some of the intelligence community's most sophisticated technical spies.

Mr. Sporkin publicly has denied doing anything more than his required duties in notifying a senior CIA official, who has since left the agency, that he needed a lawyer.

Both Democratic and Republican members of the Senate panel have charged privately that the notification tipped off the suspect that a leak investigation was under way. As CIA general counsel, Mr. Sporkin's function under certain circumstances is to advise CIA employees that they need legal representation.

Administration sources said the allegations concern the "most serious" unauthorized disclosure of classified information from the U.S. government in the past five years.

Mr. Sporkin has retained famed trial lawyer Edward Bennett Williams as his counsel during the Senate proceedings, according to congressional sources.

— Bill Gertz

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